

## **Reps. Sutton and Kaptur Secure Support for Sensor Technology Research at Lorain County Community College**

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, Reps. Betty Sutton (D-Ohio) and Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) announced that they secured \$2 million for restriction of hazardous substances (RoHS) components and sensor technology research at the Lorain County Community College in the FY 2011 Defense Appropriations bill.

The research will be conducted at the new Sensor System Integration Institute at LCCC's Entrepreneurship Innovation Center, which will create internship opportunities for students studying aerospace and micro-electronic systems manufacturing, and will create new jobs and small businesses in the field.

The program will help reduce environmental hazards in the manufacture of circuit boards for use in aerospace.

This research will also address the issue of "tin whiskers," which, according to NASA, are electrically conductive, crystalline structures of tin that sometimes grow from surfaces where tin (especially electroplated tin) is used as a final finish. Tin whiskers have been observed to grow to lengths of several millimeters (mm) and in rare instances to lengths in excess of 10 mm. Numerous electronic system failures have been attributed to short circuits caused by tin whiskers that bridge closely-spaced circuit elements maintained at different electrical potentials.

"Congresswoman Kaptur and I are proud to announce that this cutting-edge research is going to be done right here at Lorain County Community College," said Rep. Sutton, who represents LCCC. "By developing and testing specific tools for use in the design and development of electronic parts, we will help reduce electronic failures in military applications, potentially saving American lives and money - and create jobs in Lorain County."

"Working together, Congresswoman Sutton and I are committed to this important initiative as an investment in high-tech jobs for Lorain County," said Rep. Kaptur, who represents the western part of Lorain County and serves on the defense subcommittee.

"The support consistently demonstrated by Congresswoman Sutton for Lorain County Community College has been a tremendous catalyst for our college to help transform our region's economy," said Lorain County Community College President Roy A. Church. "The new Department of Defense appropriation jointly spearheaded by both Congresswoman Sutton and Congresswoman Kaptur provides a unique opportunity to build on the sensor commercialization capacity under development at LCCC. Through this new sensor and commercialization center, LCCC will be a focal point throughout the region, state and Midwest for the testing and packaging of sensors for military, biomedical and other industry sectors. We applaud our two Congresswomen in making this a reality for Lorain County and are confident that this opportunity will translate into new job creation and growth."

By its inclusion in the Defense Appropriations bill, the program made it through the most critical step in the process. The legislation still has to be approved by the House Appropriations Committee, the House and the Senate.